विधि और न्याय मंत्री तथा जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द): (क) से (घ) निर्वाचन आयोग की वर्ष 1986 और 1987 की रिपोर्ट में यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त की नियुक्ति के लिए संसद् द्वारा विधि के अधिनियमन पर विचार किया जा सकता है। सरकार ने अभी इस विषय में कोई विनिश्चय नहीं किया है।

सीमा-शुल्क सदन अभिकर्ताओं के लिए लाइसेंस

*418. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन**: क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस वर्ष के दौरान दिल्ली में सीमाशुल्क सदन अभिकर्ता लाइसेंस के लिए कितने व्यक्तियों ने आवेदन किया और उनमें से कितने व्यक्तियों को लाइसेंस प्रदान कर दिए गए तथा लाइसेंस प्रदान किये जाने वाले व्यक्तियों में से अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कितने व्यक्ति थे; और

(ख) देश भर में कितने लाइसेंसशुदा सीमा-शुल्क सदन अभिकर्ता कार्य कर रहे हैं और उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की श्रेणी के कितने हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राजस्व विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित पांजा): (क) सीमा-शुल्क गृह एजेन्ट के रूप में कार्य करने हेतु लाइसेंस मंजूर किए जाने के लिए दिल्ली सीमा-शुल्क गृह को इस वर्ष के दौरान कुल मिलाकर 588 आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं। इन आवेदन-पत्रों की अभी समीक्षा की जा रही है।

(ख) पूरे देश में 2352 सीमा-शुल्क गृह एजेन्ट कार्य कर रहे हैं। इनमें से अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के सीमाशुल्क गृह एजेन्ट कितने हैं, इसके बारे में सूचना अलग से नहीं रखी जाती है, क्योंकि सीमा-शुल्क गृह एजेन्ट लाइसेंसिंग विनियम, 1984 में दिए गए उपबंधों के अनुसार आवेदकों द्वारा ऐसी सूचना देना अपेक्षित नहीं होता है।

Suspension of sale of Tobacco from auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh

*419. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of tobacco has been suspended from some of the auction platforms of Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh recently; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) The Tobacco growers had stopped sales at many auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh as they were unhappy with the prices realised. The Tobacco Board held discussions with the traders and representative of growers, to facilitate resumption of auctions on all platforms in Andhra Pradesh. The auction did resume but prices realised still being lower than the expectations of the farmers, the auctions continue to be erratic. Efforts are continuing to facilitate auction in orderly manner.

Condonation of delay in submission of cases for pension to freedom fighters

*420. SHRI SHANKARRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1714 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken in respect of the six hundred cases of freedom fighters for condonation of delay in submission of the cases; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome there-

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Curbing FERA and MRTP companies operating in low-tech areas

@3429. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Lever Limited has not diluted its equity below 51 percent as per "FERA" Rules even though 74 percent of its production and sales are in low-tech area of soaps and detergents;

(b) if so, whether by allowing such multinational, FERA and MRTP company to operate in low-tech areas, Government's policy of encouraging indigenous and small scale industries is being violated; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to curb FERA companies operating in low-tech areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Hindustan Lever Limited was permitted under Section 29(2) (a) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to continue to carry on its business in India with 51 per cent foreign equity subject, inter-alia, to the conditions that (i) the company's annual turnover from Appendix I activity, products/process involving sophisticated technology and own exports would not be less than 60 per cent of the company's total turnover; and (ii) not less than 10 per cent of the company's own production during each year would be exported.

The company has been fulfilling these stipulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3002, transferred from the 13th March, 1989.

Service in rural areas as a pre-condition for appearing in promotional tests in nationalised banks

3430. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether those officers of nationalised banks, who have otherwise become eligible to appear in the promotion test for Middle Management Grade/Scale II by virtue of completion of seven years' service in Junior Management Grade/Scale-I before 1st June, 1988, are required to render two years service in rural areas, if not already done, before being allowed to appear in the said test;

(b) if so, whether some officers in Bank of Baroda have represented for being exempted from this condition, if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) whether service rendered in rural areas in clerical cadre is also counted towards the said period of two years, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In terms of the guidelines issued under the Officers' Service Regulations of the nationalised banks, the eligibility criteria for promotions to be made w.e.f. 1.6.1988 from JMGS-I to MMGS-II is 7 years satisfactory service in Grade/Scale-I, provided the officer has put in a minimum of 2 years' service in a rural branch.

(b) Government have received a proposal from Bank of Baroda requesting for exemption for certain officers from the eligibilty criterion of rural service. The matter is under consideration.

(c) The stipulation of rural service is an eligibility criterion for promotion of officers from JMG-1 to MMG-II and therefore, servce rendered in the clerical cadre is not counted for this purpose.